

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Washington, D.C. 20250

---

### ENGINEERING DIVISION

#### Geology

#### GEOLOGY NOTE NO. 1

#### Re: Color Codes for Sediment Yield Maps

The purpose of this Geology Note is to standardize the colors and ranges of sediment yields shown on SCS sediment yield maps.

The standard categories of sediment yields are in tons per square mile per year. The classes and the appropriate colors are on the color code on the reverse side. The colors range from green for the lowest sediment yield values, up through yellow, tan, and orange, to red for the highest values. The basic color combinations used to obtain the colors shown are listed to the left of the color sample to assure uniformity in printing the sediment yield maps.

In some areas of the West sediment yields are considered in acre feet rather than tons. The same color code is applicable. For example, if an acre foot of sediment is assumed to weigh 1500 tons, then the primary categories equivalent to tons would be:

<u>Color</u>	<u>Acre Feet/Sq.Mile/Yr.</u>
Red	More than 3.0
Orange	1.0 to 3.0
Tan	0.5 to 1.0
Yellow	0.2 to 0.5
Green	Less than 0.2

Most sediment yield maps will have the ranges indicated only by pale colors. If further division of categories is needed, see the note on color page.

Sediment yield maps should stipulate in the legend: "Do not use for design purposes." A detailed study is required to obtain the sediment yield for a specific area, such as determining the sediment storage space allocation for a reservoir.

Prepared by John N. Holeman, Geologist, Engineering Division,  
Washington, D.C. and E. M. Flaxman, Geologist, EWP Unit, Portland,  
Oregon.





# COLOR CODE FOR SEDIMENT YIELD MAPS

tons/sq. mi./year <sup>1/</sup>

30% Red		More than 4500
60% Red		see note
30% Red, 60% Yellow		1500 to 4500
60% Red, 100% Yellow		see note
30% Yellow, 30% Red, 30% Black		750 to 1500
60% Yellow, 60% Red, 30% Blue		see note
30% Yellow		300 to 750
100% Yellow		see note
60% Yellow, 30% Blue		Less than 300
100% Yellow, 30% Blue, 30% Black		see note

(Yellow = Leber HGS Y - 14, Red = Leber HGS R - 32, Blue = Leber HGS B - 51)

Note: The majority of sediment yield maps will have only the ranges indicated by the pale colors. Where further breakdown is necessary, the pale color depicts the lower portion of the range and the bright color depicts the higher.

Example:	30% Yellow		300 to 450
	100% Yellow		450 to 750

<sup>1/</sup> In some areas, acre feet per sq. mi. per year are preferred.